

Fourth congressional district representative Betty McCollum said she anticipates some change to the boundaries during a redistricting process, but anticipates the character of the district will remain the same.

Derrick Williams, *Mendota Heights Patch*

Editor's Note: Mendota Heights Patch will be taking a closer look at the 2010 Census as the U.S. Census Bureau releases its data through the first quarter of 2011.

According to the 2010 Census, Minnesota is home to 5.3 million people, up 7.8 percent from the 4.9 million people that called Minnesota home in the 2000 Census.

The growth wasn't as fast as the nation's over the 10-year-span-the country's population grew 9.7 percent over the decade, up to 308.7 million people. But it was enough to keep all eight congressional posts in the 435-seat House of Representatives.

That's good news for Ramsey and northern Dakota County as it guarantees Fourth District congresswoman Betty McCollum isn't going to have to fight for a significantly larger district, or her job.

"The loss of a seat would have diminished our state's political power so this outcome is a real success," said McCollum in a statement. The U.S. Census Bureau recently released the new numbers, which are drawn from the first data gleaned from the 2010 Census that Dakota County residents, and all Americans, took in the spring and summer.

The state was close to losing a seat. In fact, just 8,739 people separated Minnesota from losing a seat, according to an Election Data Services study, just edging out Missouri for the right to keep the seat.

Every 10 years, the U.S. Census Bureau conducts the Census to figure out national and state population numbers. The numbers are primarily used to divvy up the 435 house seats between the states, as well as to adjust boundaries for districts.

It's unknown how population shifts in Minnesota will alter the current district map, but the state

legislature will rework all eight congressional districts, and all 201 state legislative districts, this year.

"Ramsey County and the City of Saint Paul have historically anchored the Fourth District," said McCollum. "Communities in northern Dakota County have traditionally been an important part of the district because of economic and geopolitical relationships. The future Fourth District will need to add population, but its boundaries should continue to keep its unique East Metro character."

Overall, Texas will gain four new House seats, and Florida will gain two. Arizona, Georgia, Nevada, South Carolina, Utah and Washington will gain one each.

Ohio and New York each will lose two House seats. Illinois, Iowa, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Michigan, Missouri, New Jersey and Pennsylvania will lose one seat each.